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25 January 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Chairman F. Edward
Hebert, House Armed Services Committee

1. This morning the Director reported on his conversation on 22 January 1971 with Chairman Hebert during which:

a. Hebert said he planned to abolish the Armed Services Policy Committee and wondered how the Director would feel about the Agency reporting to the full Armed Services Committee. The Director said this would cause us serious problems and Hebert seemed to drop the idea.

b. Hebert pointed out that under the rules limiting members to one subcommittee chairmanship, he could not chair the CIA Subcommittee, and wondered who the Director might find acceptable. When the Director suggested Representative Price, Hebert pointed out he was excluded by the above-mentioned rule. Hebert suggested Representative Bennett but the Director objected that Mr. Bennett might put excess demands on the Agency for briefings, etc. There was no clear conclusion to this part of the discussion but it was agreed that Agency representatives (not the Director) would give the full Committee weekly situation briefings at which no Agency operational matters would be taken up. The Director further understood that these sensitive Agency matters would be discussed only with a small group--probably Representatives Hebert, Price and Arends--at irregular intervals, somewhat like our previous Subcommittee briefings.

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c. After this part of the discussion, Hebert called in Messrs. Blandford and Slatinshek for further review of the problem, but the results were not conclusive. (The Director suggests we try to find out from Blandford and Slatinshek at an early opportunity exactly what Hebert has in mind. The Director has the impression that Hebert

[REDACTED]

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2. Incidentally, the Director said that Secretary Laird had mentioned, during their trip to the Russell funeral, [REDACTED] and the future functioning of the Committee was pretty much up in the air.

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3. The Director commented that in weekly briefings of the full Committee he did not want to appear himself, since he didn't want to be exposed to questions regarding Agency operations, so he wanted these given by someone who could plausibly plead ignorance if such questions arose.

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